

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
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Congressman Dent leads passage of bill to recognize National MPS Awareness Day

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) today led passage of a bill to recognize National MPS Awareness Day, a day devoted to raising awareness for a group of seven often undiagnosed, genetic diseases known as Mucopolysaccharidoses, or MPS.

These genetic diseases are caused by enzyme deficiencies that prevent the body from breaking down and recycling materials in cells which can result in stunted growth, stiff joints, speech and hearing impairment, breathing problems, mental retardation and a dramatically shortened life span.

Congressman Dent was co-sponsor of the legislation, offered by U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI), which officially recognizes the goals of National MPS Awareness Day, held every Feb. 25. Congressman Dent managed the legislation on the House floor, and it was passed by voice vote.

“Like so many Americans, I was unaware of MPS until it was brought to my attention first-hand,” Congressman Dent said. “In January of last year, one of my constituents, Les Sheaffer, came to talk to me about his daughter, Brittany, who has MPS III or Sanfilippo Syndrome. My staff and I were touched by Brittany's story and the Sheaffer family's resolve.”

“With early diagnosis, treatments can minimize potentially life-threatening complications and greatly improve the quality of life for these

children and their families, who bravely face the devastating effects of MPS,” Congressman Dent said. “Unfortunately, MPS is not well understood in the medical community and as a result, diagnosis is often delayed. That's why we are raising awareness and supporting those who are seeking a cure.”

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